



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

Mary Mosiman, CPA
Auditor of State

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE _____ December 10, 2013 _____ Contact: Andy Nielsen
515/281-5834

Auditor of State Mary Mosiman today released an examination report on the City of Sidney, Iowa for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. The examination was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa.

Mosiman recommended the City strengthen internal controls and develop additional written policies and procedures. The City should also remit unclaimed property obligations to the Office of Treasurer of State as required by Chapter 556.11 of the Code of Iowa.

A copy of the examination report is available for review in the City Clerk's Office, in the Office of Auditor of State and on the Auditor of State's web site at <http://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/1321-0343-BLOF.pdf>.

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CITY OF SIDNEY
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S EXAMINATION REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD
JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013

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City of Sidney

Officials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Doug Hobbie	Mayor	(Resigned)
Paul Rutt (Appointed May 2013)	Mayor	Nov 2013
Todd Chapman	Council Member	Jan 2014
Ryan Kersten	Council Member	Jan 2014
Jill Travis	Council Member	Jan 2014
James Henderson	Council Member	Jan 2016
Joe Travis	Council Member	Jan 2016
Mark Travis	City Manager	Indefinite
Suzanne Moores	Clerk/Treasurer	Indefinite
T.J. Pattermann	Attorney	Indefinite



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Independent Accountant's Examination Report

To the Honorable Mayor
and Members of the City Council:

We have performed an examination of the City of Sidney pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa. Accordingly, we have applied certain tests and procedures to selected accounting records and related information of the City of Sidney for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The procedures we performed are summarized as follows:

1. We reviewed selected City Council meeting minutes for compliance with Chapters 21, 372.13(6) and 380 of the Code of Iowa.
2. We reviewed the City's internal controls to determine if proper control procedures are in place and incompatible duties, from a control standpoint, are not performed by the same employee.
3. We reviewed security bond coverage for compliance with Chapter 64 of the Code of Iowa.
4. We obtained and reviewed the City Clerk's financial reports and selected bank reconciliations to determine whether the bank balances properly reconciled to the general ledger account balances and monthly financial reports provided to the City Council.
5. We reviewed City funds for consistency with the City Finance Committee's (CFC) recommended Uniform Chart of Accounts (COA) and to determine required funds and fund balances are properly maintained and accurately accounted for.
6. We reviewed the City's fiscal year 2012 Annual Financial Report to determine whether it was completed and accurately reflects the City's financial information.
7. We reviewed investments to determine compliance with Chapter 12B of the Code of Iowa.
8. We reviewed compliance with Chapters 12C.2, 12B.10B and 556.1(12) of the Code of Iowa pertaining to required depository resolutions, investment policy and reporting of unclaimed property to the State of Iowa.
9. We reviewed debt, including general obligation and revenue bonds/notes, and related transactions for proper authorization and compliance with Chapters 75, 384 and 403.9 of the Code of Iowa and to determine whether the debt and related proceeds and repayments were properly accounted for.


10. We reviewed and tested selected receipts for accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA.
11. We reviewed and tested selected disbursements for proper approval, adequate supporting documentation, accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA and compliance with the public purpose criteria established by Article III, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.
12. We reviewed transfers between funds for propriety, proper authorization and accurate accounting.
13. We reviewed and tested selected payroll and related transactions for propriety, proper authorization and accurate accounting.
14. We reviewed the annual certified budget for proper authorization, certification and timely amendment.


Based on the performance of the procedures described above, we identified various recommendations for the City. Our recommendations are described in the Detailed Recommendations section of this report. Unless reported in the Detailed Recommendations, items of non-compliance were not noted during the performance of the specific procedures listed above.

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an audit of the operations of the City of Sidney, the objective of which is the expression of opinions on the City's financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express opinions on the City's financial statements. Had we performed additional procedures, or had we performed an audit of the City of Sidney, additional matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information and use of the officials, employees and citizens of the City of Sidney and other parties to whom the City of Sidney may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the City of Sidney during the course of our examination. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience.


MARY MOSIMAN, CPA
Auditor of State


WARREN G. JENKINS, CPA
Chief Deputy Auditor of State

August 7, 2013

Detailed Recommendations

City of Sidney

Detailed Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

- (A) Segregation of Duties – One important aspect of internal control is the segregation of duties among employees to prevent an individual employee from handling duties which are incompatible. Generally, one individual has control over each of the following areas for the City:
- (1) Cash – handling, depositing, reconciling and recording.
 - (2) Investments – investing, recording and reconciling earnings.
 - (3) Receipts – opening mail, collecting, depositing, journalizing, reconciling and posting.
 - (4) Disbursements – purchasing, invoice processing, check writing, mailing, reconciling and recording.
 - (5) Payroll – record keeping, preparation and distribution.
 - (6) Journal entries – preparing and journalizing.

In addition, there is no evidence bank reconciliations are reviewed by an independent person.

Recommendation – We realize segregation of duties is difficult with a limited number of office employees. However, the City should review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff, including elected officials. Also, the independent reviewer should sign or initial the bank reconciliation to provide evidence of the review.

- (B) Reconciliation of Utility Billings, Collections and Delinquent Accounts – While utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts were reconciled monthly, the beginning balance did not always agree to the prior month's reconciliation ending balance. There is no evidence of independent review of the utility reconciliation.

Recommendation – As a part of the reconciliation process, the City should ensure the beginning balance used agrees to the ending balance from the prior month's reconciliation. The City Council or other independent person designated by the City Council should review the reconciliations and sign or initial them to provide evidence of the review.

City of Sidney

Staff

- (C) Certified Budget – Disbursements during the year ended June 30, 2013 exceeded the amounts budgeted in the community and economic development, general government and debt service functions. Chapter 384.20 of the Code of Iowa states, in part, “Public monies may not be expended or encumbered except under an annual or continuing appropriation.”

Recommendation – The budget should have been amended in accordance with Chapter 384.18 of the Code of Iowa before disbursements were allowed to exceed the budget.

- (D) Financial Reporting – Bond proceeds of \$1,277,700 were incorrectly coded as intergovernmental receipts rather than as other financing sources. Also, rent receipts of \$1,130 from the use of land around the sewer lagoons was incorrectly coded as agricultural land taxes rather than as use of money and property.

Recommendation – The City should implement procedures to ensure receipts are properly coded.

- (E) Annual Financial Report – Chapter 384.22 of the Code of Iowa requires the City’s Annual Financial Report contain a “summary for the preceding fiscal year of all collections and receipts, all accounts due the City, and all expenditures...” The City’s Annual Financial Report included receipts and disbursements which do not agree with the amounts recorded in the City’s records.

Recommendation – The City should ensure the receipts and disbursements included in future Annual Financial Reports are supported by the amounts recorded in the City’s records.

- (F) Questionable Disbursement – One expenditure we believe may not meet the requirements of public purpose as defined in an Attorney General’s opinion dated April 25, 1979 since the public benefit to be derived has not been clearly documented was noted. This expenditure is detailed as follows:

Paid to	Purpose	Amount
Visa	Meals and alcohol during travel	\$ 45

A police officer was out of town for training and charged meals, including alcohol, for himself and a guest on the City’s credit card.

Recommendation – The City should seek reimbursement from the officer for the cost of the guest’s meal and the alcohol.

- (G) Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) – The City’s LOST ballot requires LOST receipts be used 50% for community betterment, 25% for infrastructure and 25% for property tax relief. The City has not been tracking the use of LOST receipts.

Recommendation – The City should implement procedures to track LOST disbursements and transfers to ensure LOST receipts are being used in accordance with the ballot.

City of Sidney

Detailed Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

- (H) Approval of Time Records – Time records and vacation/comp time usage are not reviewed and approved by supervisory personnel prior to processing payroll.

Recommendation – Employee time records and vacation/comp time usage should be reviewed and approved by their supervisor prior to processing payroll, with the supervisory approval being documented.

- (I) Approval of Disbursements – A disbursement was not included on the list of disbursements approved in the City Council minutes.

Recommendation – The City should implement procedures to ensure all disbursements are included on the list provided to the City Council for approval.

- (J) Unclaimed Property – Chapter 556.11 of the Code of Iowa requires each City Clerk to report and remit outstanding obligations, including checks, trusts and bonds, held for more than two years to the Office of Treasurer of State annually. The City has not remitted unclaimed property to the Office of Treasurer of State annually.

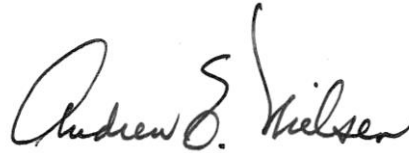
Recommendation – The City should implement procedures to ensure outstanding checks, trusts, and bonds are reviewed annually and amounts over two years old are remitted to the Office of Treasurer of State, as required.

City of Sidney

Staff

This examination was performed by:

Brian R. Brustkern, CPA, Manager
Daniel J. Mikels, Staff Auditor
Kyle C. Smith, Assistant Auditor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew E. Nielsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "N".

Andrew E. Nielsen, CPA
Deputy Auditor of State